

Lehigh Valley Chapter

# American Guild of Organists

May 2026

[www.lvago.org](http://www.lvago.org)



## Chapter Officers 2025-2026

Dean: Susan Frickert  
484-788-9476

[sfrickert2001@yahoo.com](mailto:sfrickert2001@yahoo.com)

Sub Dean: Janice Butz  
610-730-0328

[janicebutz@gmail.com](mailto:janicebutz@gmail.com)

Secretary: Linda Maule  
610-258-5006  
[maule@ptd.net](mailto:maule@ptd.net)

Treasurer: Stephen Bueker  
610-657-4188  
[sfbueker@rcn.com](mailto:sfbueker@rcn.com)

### Executive Committee

Marisa Deshler (2026)

Jeffrey Raub (2026)

Charles Glandorf (2027)

Gary Raish (2027)

Robert Riday (2028)

Michael Fister (2028)

## Notes from the Dean - *Fine*

Dear colleagues,

It has been my great honor and pleasure to serve as your Dean for the past two years. Being blessed to work with the same members of the board during that time has been a gift - we are so fortunate to have such creative, dedicated musicians steering our Lehigh Valley Chapter! We live in a distressing time when so many smaller churches are closing their doors forever. Some of the blame can go to the Covid pandemic, which churches addressed with in-home worship streaming services, both live and video for viewing at any convenient time. That was a wonderful new opportunity to include shut-ins and those that work strange hours, but unfortunately it also gave members the wrong impression that "being the church" was a spectator sport. Do we offer something that couch watching does not? I believe we who are leaders need to prioritize nurturing relationships with our congregation and choirs. Of course we want to prepare our weekly worship music to the best of our and our volunteers' abilities, but we must remember to place people over program and deliberate inclusion over exclusion. We need to recognize that music ministry can serve as a beacon illuminating the truth of the Gospels; can provide a mutual process to comfort grief and celebrate life's simple joys; can awaken us to appreciate the beauty and the warts of our shared humanity in Christ. As so many theologians have stated, "God doesn't call us to succeed, God calls us to be faithful." It will take all the love and creativity we can muster, but it truly is worth it!

May God continue to bless all of you richly in your holy calling.

Susan



ANNUAL YOUNG ARTIST'S RECITAL,  
BANQUET, & ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 31, 4:00 p.m.  
Christ Lutheran Church  
1235 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18102  
(parking is available in the lot across the street)

**Luke DiGiacinto,**  
recitalist and student of Dr. Daniel Aune  
at The Peabody Institute

**Included on the program**

From J. S. Bach's Leipzig Chorales  
*Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend BWV655*  
*An Wasserflussen Babylon BWV653*  
*Komm Gott Schöpfer heiliger Geist BWV667*  
*Novelette Op. 68 No. 3, Horatio Parker*  
*Organbook III, No. 4 "Jig for the Feet," William Albright*  
*Organ Sonata No. 12 in D flat, Op. 154, Joseph Gabriel Rheinberger*

*Don't miss this wonderful afternoon of fabulous music,  
fellowship with your friends in our Lehigh Valley AGO Chapter,  
a delicious meal and our annual meeting and election of officers.*

**Dinner Menu**

Five Cheese Tortellini alla rosa, Sweet Bourbon Salmon, Chicken Caprese  
Salad, Vegetables  
NY Cheesecake  
Beverages

Cost is \$25 per person

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Reservation for LVAGO Annual Banquet and Meeting, Sunday, May 31

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a check for \$25 (per person) payable to the **Lehigh Valley American  
Guild of Organists** and mail to Janice Butz, 2510 14th St., Bethlehem, PA 18020 by  
**Saturday, May 23.**



## Young Artist Recitalist Luke DiGiacinto

Luke DiGiacinto is a church musician, balancing scholarship, and authenticity in his performances. As an organist with an interest in early music, he grapples with making musical decisions that constitute an awareness of historical performance practice.

Luke served as Director of Music and Organist at Advent Moravian Church in Bethlehem, where he directed the Chancel Choir, Advent Bell Choir, and worked closely with the Advent Brass Ensemble. He also ministered to Morning Star Moravian Church, West Side Moravian Church, and is doing an internship at Central Moravian Church this summer. Luke's services to the Moravian Church continued as the accompanist for the Unitas Chorale, a mass choir made up of Pennsylvania Moravian Church choir members, as well as officiating from the organ at many weddings, and funerals around the Lehigh Valley. During this past summer (2025) he worked as an intern at Central Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Throughout his time at Peabody, has assisted as an occasional accompanist at Christ Lutheran Church in Baltimore's inner harbor.

Outside of the church music environment, Luke was the education coordinator, and a board member for the American Guild of Organists. He participated in masterclasses led by David Baskeyfield, Frederic Blanc, and Katelyn Emerson. Luke was instrumental in organizing the 'Pedals Pipes and Pizza' events for the Lehigh Valley Chapter introducing young people to the organ.

Luke is an active recitalist. He performed two of the 'Tuesday Noon' concerts provided by the Philadelphia AGO at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale, PA, a recital at The Cathedral Church of the Nativity in South Bethlehem, a joint recital with a colleague at St. Bartholomew's church in Baltimore, MD, The Franciscan Monastery in Washington DC, and at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Emmaus, PA. Luke played for the Wind Gap Elementary and Middle Schools for their fall and spring recitals, and for the El Sistema string, and voice program in Allentown, Pennsylvania, an after-school program that provides music lessons to underprivileged students.

As a singer, he was a member of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem, where he was cast as one of Noah's sons in the Bach Choir's production of Benjamin Britten's 'Noyes Fludde.' He has also sung with the Camerata Singers, and the Allentown Symphony Chorus.

Luke is currently pursuing an M.M. degree in Organ Performance at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins where he studies with Dr. Daniel Aune finishing by end of this year. Luke received a B.M. in sacred music from Moravian University, graduating magna cum laude. Outside of music, Luke enjoys vacations at the beach, languages, and fine art. His hobbies include cooking and partner dancing.

## Positions Available

### Organist/Choirmaster (2)

**Church:** St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 84 East Oakland Ave., Doylestown, PA 18901

**Website:** [www.stpaulsdoylestown.org](http://www.stpaulsdoylestown.org)

**Contact:** Margery Hoffman, 215-348-5511, [jobs@stpaulsdowylestown.org](mailto:jobs@stpaulsdowylestown.org)

**Weekly services:** 1, additional during Lent and Advent seasons

**Ensembles:** Adult Choir - 16 members, Children's Choir - 10 members (Choirmaster responsible for adult choir only)

**Music Budget:** \$1500

**Instruments:** Austin organ, 3 keyboards, 34 ranks, 52 stops, and 1,200+ pipes

**Weekly attendance:** 110

**Position Fill Date:** 8/1/26 (deadline for submitting applications - 5/31/26)

**Total hours per week:** 12.5 (3 playing services, 2.5 leading rehearsals, 2.5 preparing/planning for rehearsals, 2 meetings, .5 administrative/custodial duties, 2.5 practicing, 2 additional responsibility to congregation)

**Salary:** 30,000-35,000

**Benefits:** book/music allowance, continuing ed, secretarial assistance, music library assistance

**Notes:** the Organist/Choirmaster is responsible for providing musical leadership for the worship life of the parish, supporting the liturgy of St. Paul's Episcopal Church through thoughtful music selection, skilled organ playing, and effective choir direction. The person in this position collaborates closely with the Rector to enhance worship, foster congregational singing and develop/maintain a vibrant choral program appropriate to St. Paul's.

### Church Musician (1)

**Church:** First Presbyterian Church of Easton, PA, 333 Spring Garden Street, Easton, 18042

**Website:** [www.eastonfpc.org](http://www.eastonfpc.org)

**Contact:** Jonathan Acheson, Office Administrator, [office@eastonfpc.org](mailto:office@eastonfpc.org); Susan Charlton, Search Committee Chair, 610-393-0179, [char4susan@rcn.com](mailto:char4susan@rcn.com)

**Weekly services:** 1

**Ensembles:** Adult choir - 12 members, Adult Handbells - 8 members

**Music Budget:** \$5000

**Instruments:** Three-manual Allen electronic

**Weekly attendance:** 35

**Position Fill Date:** 6/30/26

**Total hours per week:** 6, 8 if directing handbells (1 playing services; 1 accompanying choir/occasional other musicians, 2 if handbells also; 1 only if leading handbells; .5 in meetings; .5 completing administrative/custodial duties; 3 practicing)

**Salary:** starting at \$15,000, 4 weeks paid vacation

**Notes:** First Presbyterian Church in historic Easton, PA, seeks a versatile church musician with strong organ and piano skills in a variety of genres to join our congregation as we embark on a new chapter of our church history serving our neighbors locally and globally. Candidates for this position can expect to play service music for one weekly worship service, as well as special services throughout the year; accompany the adult choir in rehearsal and during worship, as well as periodically accompanying vocal and instrumental soloists and small ensembles; and possibly direct the handbell choir.



#### Newsletter Editor

Marta Oberlin, [martasgig@gmail.com](mailto:martasgig@gmail.com)

#### Placement Service

Please visit the Placement page on [www.lvago.org](http://www.lvago.org) for information and the Placement Service Information Sheet.

#### Newsletter Deadline

(June/July issue) Sunday, May 24, 2026

## May 25 Organ Crawl

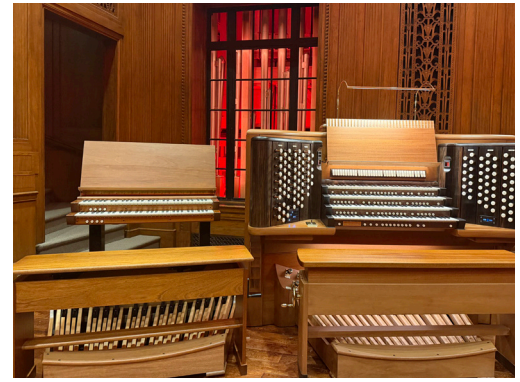
A more accurate title would be "Organ Stroll!"

Yes, the rain poured on our way to and from Philadelphia, but miraculously paused from the time we entered the city until we left! Charles Glandorf arranged for us to experience three wonderful instruments, all located around



Rittenhouse Square, a delightful little park through which we strolled from Holy Trinity Episcopal to Curtis School of Music and finally to St. Mark's Episcopal. The park was bustling with lots of families and dogs romping under the big old trees, even with a charming little outdoor market on its edges.

At Holy Trinity our host was Ben Leiby with demonstrations on the Moller by Wesley Parrott. Holy Trinity is proud of the fact that "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (St. Louis) was composed by their clergyman Phillips Brooks and organist Lewis H. Redner, evidenced by the lifesize murals painted on the front wall of the chancel that depict the entire Nativity story. More than half of our little group took turns playing that organ.



A short walk and we were at the famed Curtis Institute of Music, founded and endowed by Mary Louise Curtis Bok over 200 years ago. No student accepted into this prestigious school has ever paid tuition, a generous policy that continues today. We were met there by a phenomenal current student of Alan Morrison, Andy Brown, whose knowledge of the Dobson organ's history and ongoing improvements was as awesome as his playing. Interestingly, all the pipes of that organ are in the ceiling, and the only ones visible are of the positive, through a small glass window that originally was outside. There is a unique teacher's console next to the main console (invaluable at students' organ lessons). In a moment that took our collective breaths away, Andy flawlessly performed "Variations on a Theme by Paganini" by G. Thalben-Ball. (Most of the piece



was played furiously on the pedals, including contrapuntal melodies, parallel thirds, full chords, and even contrary foot glissandos!) We received some fascinating insights into the ways today's organ students utilize iPads for practicing and performing. (A possible future organ techno workshop?)

Our final destination was St. Mark's Episcopal (Anglo-Catholic), where we first enjoyed our bag lunches in the Rectory while Thomas Gaynor, assistant organist,



(continued on next page)



filled us in on some history, then we proceeded into the incense filled sanctuary. (They had just celebrated St. Mark's festival day.) This Aeolian-Skinner was beautifully demonstrated by Sarah Palmer, Curtis organ student and St. Mark's Organ Scholar. The challenge for our organ players was a very narrow circular metal staircase, the only way to the console, but we had many brave folks who made the climb. Heartfelt thanks to Charles Glandorf for arranging the entire organ crawl, Stephen Bueker for acquiring the very comfortable bus and driver, and Jeff Raub for obtaining the delicious catered bag lunches. We'll be talking about this memorable event for a while!



**Newsletter Editor**

Marta Oberlin, [martasgig@gmail.com](mailto:martasgig@gmail.com)

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**Newsletter Deadline**

(June/July issue) Sunday, May 24, 2026

**LVAGO Organist Substitute List**

If you would like to be included in the Organist Substitute List please forward your Name, Contact Information (phone/email) and Availability (Sundays, weekdays, etc) to Stephen Bueker, 2520 Clark Place, Easton, PA 18040; [sfbueker@rcn.com](mailto:sfbueker@rcn.com).

Dale Bonenberger	Mon-Fri	917 328-9041
Ruthann Brandt	Mon-Sat	610 262-3304
Janice Butz	Mon -Fri	610 882-9388
Ellen Erb	Mon-Sat	570 350-0343
Charles Glandorf	Mon-Sat	610 416-1055
Eric Gombert	Mon-Sat	610 435-1641
Susan Hartney	Mon-Sat	610 360-6934
Joe Kaczmarek	Mon-Sat	484 433-4336
Jacqueline Kuba	Sun-Sat	570 386-4480
Michael Kuhnert	Mon-Sat	215 536-4345
Cristina Dinella Mako-wicz	Mon-Sat	585-732-8017
James Matz	Sun-Sat	610 367-8094
Linda Maule	Mon-Sat	610 258-5006
Richard McIntyre	Mon-Sat	908 283-4691
Jeffrey Raub	Saturday	484 541-8322
Sally Reeser	Sun-Sat	610 730-6357
Michael Seroka	Mon-Sat	570 516-7207
Barbara Thomson	Sun-Sat	908 591-4499
Bruce Tonkin	Sun-Sat	610 220-5457
Dennis Varley	Sun-Sat	610 739-3567
Matthew Wary	Mon-Sat	610 743-0921
Stephen Ziminsky	Mon-Fri	610 417-2669
Freda Zimmerman	Mon-Fri	610 381-3089

# God in Three Persons:

A Hymn Festival Concert



# God in Three Persons

A Hymn Festival Concert

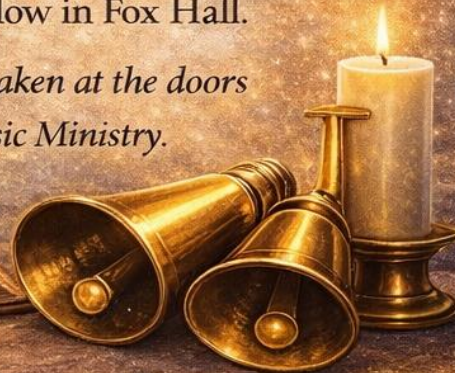
Sunday, May 31st  
beginning at 5:30PM

All are welcome and invited to join St. John's UCC's Music Ministry for our first ever hymn festival concert.

An evening of scripture, prayer, and music in honor  
of *The Holy Trinity*.

Light refreshments to follow in Fox Hall.

*A free will offering will be taken at the doors  
in support of the Music Ministry.*



St. John's United Church of Christ  
575 Grape Street  
Whitehall, PA 18052